

**GOLD
KEY**

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

NOW ONLY **12c**

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

Searching for the Flower of
Life, Hercules is attacked
by a deadly sea monster!





KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

PHYSICAL FITNESS

NUMBER 1

THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM FOR PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENT

This is one of a series of information features in Gold Key Comics. Collect the whole series for useful knowledge.



Physical fitness means endurance! Endurance comes with prolonged work. . . A short bicycle ride won't develop it; practice will!



Physical fitness means over-all health! The rhythmic sports, like swimming, rowing or running, develop every part of the body!



Physical fitness gives power—power to enjoy and to succeed, power to be a winner! Many do not have it! They lose out!



Physical fitness means strength! Muscles become stronger when they do work requiring more than half their present strength!



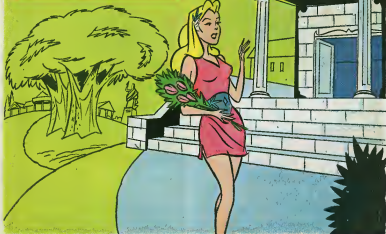
The President's Council on Youth Fitness has urged physical improvement in Americans of school age. Let's all pull our weight!

The Mighty Hercules

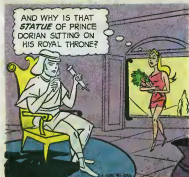
THE CURSE OF THE STONE STATUES

AS HELENA ENTERS THE PALACE OF PRINCE DORIAN AT CALYDON IN ANCIENT GREECE...

STRANGE--- WHY
ISN'T ANYONE HERE?
THERE'S NOT A
SOUND---NOT A
MOVEMENT!



AND WHY IS THAT
STATUE OF PRINCE
DORIAN SITTING ON
HIS ROYAL THRONE?



WHAT ARE *STONE STATUES*
OF THE GUARDS AND PEOPLE
DOING HERE? I-I FEEL THAT
SOMETHING *EVIL* HAS
HAPPENED!





HERCULES!
HERCULES!



IT'S HELENA! IF SHE NEEDS
HELP, I'D BETTER PUT ON
THE *MAGIC RING* ZEUS
GAVE ME TO PRESERVE MY POWERS!



HIGH ABOVE, AT THE
HOME OF THE GREEK
GODS ON MOUNT OLYMPUS...

HERCULES!
HERCULES, COME
AND HELP US!



AND THEN, WITH A GIANT LEAP, THE
MIGHTY HERCULES PLUNGES DOWN TO
THE TROUBLED SCENE BELOW...



PERFECT! MY TRAP TO
LURE HERCULES HERE
WORKED! AND NOW---
HE'S *DOOMED!*

WHEN SUNLIGHT REFLECTS FROM THE JEWEL OF THE SCEPTER OF MEDUSA ON-TO SOMEONE, HE TURNS INTO **STONE!** AND ONCE **HERCULES** IS **STONE**, NO ONE CAN STOP ME FROM RUL-
ING CALYDOON!



A **CLOUD!** IT WILL PASS QUICKLY ENOUGH! AND THEN, I CAN TURN **HERCULES** INTO A PILE OF HARM-
LESS **STONE!**

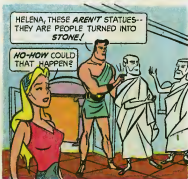


OH, **HERCULES**, I'M FRIGHTENED! I WAS BRINGING FLOWERS FOR PRINCE **DORIAN**'S THRONE ROOM-- BUT LOOK! NO ONE'S THERE-- JUST **STONE STATUES!**



HELENA, THESE **AREN'T** STATUES-- THEY ARE PEOPLE TURNED INTO **STONE!**

HO-HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?



ONLY ONE PERSON IS EVIL AND CUNNING ENOUGH TO TURN FLESH INTO **STONE**--THE WIZARD **DAEDALUS!**

AH! HERE COMES THE **SUN!**



AS DAEDALUS STARTS TO REFLECT THE
SUNLIGHT AT HERCULES, SUDDENLY...

NEIGHH!

HE-HEY!

BUT AS THE DEADLY SCEPTER
OF MEDUSA FALLS, ITS RE-
FLECTED LIGHT FLASHES
ACROSS HELENA...

HELENA! HELENA! --- GREAT
ZEUS! SHE'S TURNED INTO A
STONE STATUE!

HERE'S THE
REASON
FOR IT,
HERC!

DAEDALUS! -- THANKS,
NEWTON! YOU CAME BY IN
TIME! I'LL MAKE HIM BRING
THE STATUES BACK TO
LIFE OR HE'LL WISH
HE WERE MADE
OF STONE!

YOU'RE
NOT
USING THAT
SCEPTER
AGAIN!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY
TO ESCAPE HERCULES! USE
MY CLOAK OF INVISIBILITY!




SUFFERING
PSYCHE! H-HE'S
GONE!




BUT NOT
HIS SCEPTER!

CAN IT CHANGE THE
PEOPLE BACK FROM
STONE TO FLESH?

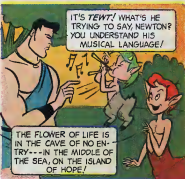


LISTEN TO WHAT THE INSCRIPTION READS!
"ONLY THE PETALS FROM THE *FLOWER OF
LIFE* CAN CHANGE MY HANDWORK FROM
STONE TO LIFE!"



THERE! THAT SCEPTER WILL
NEVER MAKE A STONE STATUE
OF ANYONE AGAIN! BUT *WHERE*
IS THE *FLOWER OF LIFE*?

HERC, LISTEN!



IT'S TEWT! WHAT'S HE
TRYING TO SAY, NEWTON?
YOU UNDERSTAND HIS
MUSICAL LANGUAGE!

THE *FLOWER OF LIFE* IS
IN THE CAVE OF NO EN-
TRY---IN THE MIDDLE OF
THE SEA, ON THE ISLAND
OF HOPE!







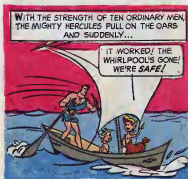
WE'RE BE-BEING
**PULLED
UNDER!**



MAYBE I CAN MAKE A
CURRENT THAT WILL GO
IN THE **OPPOSITE** DIREC-
TION TO THE WHIRLPOOL
AND NEUTRALIZE IT!



PULL HARDER!
WE'RE STILL BEING
SUCKED UNDER!



WITH THE STRENGTH OF TEN ORDINARY MEN,
THE MIGHTY HERCULES PULL ON THE OARS
AND SUDDENLY...

IT WORKED! THE
WHIRLPOOL'S GONE!
WE'RE **SAFE!**

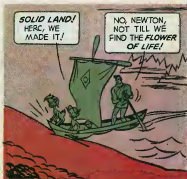


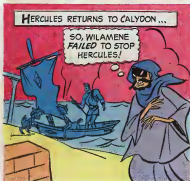
SAFE, ARE THEY? NOT ONCE I SUMMON
MY **SEA MONSTER** TO SEIZE THEM!

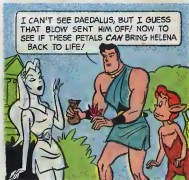
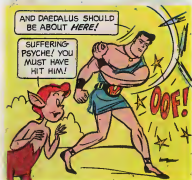
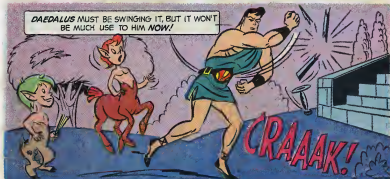
BELOW HERCULES' CRAFT, THE SEA
STIRS WILDLY AND SUDDENLY...













Great Heroes of Mythology

INTO THE COURT OF KING AEGEUS IN ATHENS COMES A HERALD WITH A GRIM REMINDER...

THESEUS FIGHTS THE MINOTAUR

IT IS TIME, EXCELLENCY, TO SEND YOUR **TRIBUTE** TO KING MINOS OF CRETE!



WHY DO WE PAY ANOTHER KING TRIBUTE, FATHER?

YEARS AGO, THESEUS, TO GET RID OF MINOS AND HIS TROOPS, I PROMISED TO SEND HIM SEVEN YOUTHS AND SEVEN MAIDS EACH YEAR!



THEY ARE SACRIFICED TO THE MAN-EATING MONSTER CALLED THE **MINOTAUR**!

THEN IT IS TIME THE SACRIFICE WAS **ENDED**! LET ME BE ONE OF THE YOUTHS AND I WILL TRY TO SLAY THE MINOTAUR!



RELUCTANTLY, KING AEGEUS LETS HIS SON SET SAIL FOR CRETE...

WE ARE DOOMED, THESEUS, WE WILL NEVER SEE OUR HOMELAND AGAIN!



AT MINOS' COURT...

I AM AEGEUS' SON AND ASK A FAVOR! LET ME BE THE **FIRST** SACRIFICED TO THE MINOTAUR!

AEGEUS' SON! BUT **WHY** SHOULD YOU WANT TO DIE FIRST?



SO I CAN *END* THIS SACRIFICE BY
SLAYING YOUR MINOTAUR!

YOU WILL BE THE FIRST
FED TO HIM IN THE MORN-
ING! BUT IT IS A PITY TO
SEE SUCH A BRAVE YOUTH
DIE!



THAT EVENING, MINOS' DAUGHTER, ARIADNE
COMES TO THE PRISON WINDOW...

YOU *CAN'T* SLAY THE MINOTAUR
UNARMED! AND EVEN IF YOU KILLED
HIM, YOU COULD NOT ESCAPE THE
LABYRINTH WHERE HE IS KEPT! NO
ONE CAN GET OUT OF
THAT MAZE!

ATHENS HAS LOST
ENOUGH OF ITS
YOUTH! I MUST TRY!



YOU ARE BRAVE,
THESEUS, TO WANT
TO TRY TO KILL THE
MINOTAUR! LET ME
HELP YOU!



YOU? BUT
YOU ARE MINOS'
DAUGHTER!

TAKE THESE! THE SWORD IS FOR THE
MINOTAUR! AS YOU GO THROUGH THE
LABYRINTH, RUN OUT THE BALL OF THREAD!
THEN FOLLOW IT BACK TO
THE DOOR! BUT IF YOU
SUCCEED, I CANNOT FACE
MY FATHER--PROMISE
TO TAKE ME WITH
YOU!

GLADLY, ARIADNE!



NEXT MORNING, THESEUS IS THROWN INTO
THE LABYRINTH! THE DOOR SLAMS SHUT
BEHIND HIM...

GOOD! NO ONE SAW
THE SWORD OR
THREAD! NOW TO
FIND THE *MINOTAUR*!



TYING THE END OF THE THREAD TO THE DOOR, THESEUS UNWINDS IT AS HE GOES INTO THE LABYRINTH TWISTING, TURNING, DIZZYING PASSAGES, WHEN SUDDENLY...

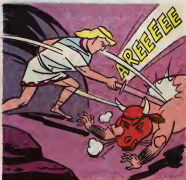


WOUNDED, THE MINOTAUR FLEES, AS THESEUS RACES AFTER HIM, UNRAVELING THE THREAD THROUGH THE CRISSCROSSING CORRIDORS AND CAVERNS...

I'VE ALMOST RUN OUT OF THREAD! IF I DON'T FIND THE MINOTAUR SOON, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RETRACE MY STEPS OUT OF HERE!



**SUDDENLY, WITH A DYING SURGE OF FURY,
THE HALF-MAN HALF-BULL MONSTER CHARGES!**



**QUICKLY, THESEUS FOLLOWS
THE THREAD...**



ARIADNE!

**I THANK THE GODS YOU
ARE SAFE! BUT WE MUST
HURRY! I HAVE BRIBED THE
SENTRIES! YOUR FRIENDS
ARE IN THE
BOAT!**



**SAILS BILLOWING IN THE WIND,
THEY RACE AWAY FROM CRETE,
THE THREAT OF THE MINOTAUR
ENDED AND AHEAD LIES GREECE,
WHERE ARIADNE WILL SOON BE-
COME THESEUS' WIFE!**



THE FLOWING GOLD OF GREECE



In the ancient legends we often read stories of vast hoards of treasure such as the wealth of Croesus, and the gold of Midas. And one of the most exciting tales was that of Jason and the Argonauts hunting for the mythical "Golden Fleece."

But if truth were known, the greatest treasure of ancient Greece was the fruit of the olive tree! To the ancient Greek olive oil was a vital necessity of everyday life. The oil was used to prepare many foods. In the evenings, the Greek home was lit by an oil lamp. Such clay lamps have been found by the hundreds whenever archaeologists investigate ancient building sites in Greece.

Before entering a contest in the gymnasium, the Greek athlete rubbed himself down with olive oil. Historians report that the Persians had perfected a method of preserving fabrics by dipping them in a mixture of olive oil and honey.

The finest olives were grown near Athens in the province of Attica. Athens itself was the center of the olive oil trade in Greece. Indeed, the Greeks believed that Athena, the Goddess of Athens, had invented the olive. In gratitude for this gift, the Athenians set up a special enclosure near Athena's temple on the Acropolis. There, worshipers could see with their own eyes the very olive tree which Athena had brought to earth.

Olives were harvested late in the year. In the winter months Greek men would climb up the gnarled branches carrying long flexible rods. These were used to shake down the ripe olives. After being

gathered in baskets the olives were bruised in a mill, and then brought to the olive press which was set up near the grove.

The press was a stone block. The olives, in a woven container, were placed upon the block and then pressed by means of a huge lever which was weighted with a bag of stones at the end. The operator of the press added his own weight to that of the stones. The oil was caught by a groove cut in the stone base of the press, a spout guided it into a large clay jar.

The economical Greeks pressed the olive mash several times, but the quality of the oil became poorer with each pressing.

During the olive harvest customers and wholesale dealers visited the groves to buy the freshly-pressed oil. Before completing the purchase, the buyer would taste the oil and then rub a few drops on the back of his hand, sniffing it to catch the bouquet. This was the way he could determine the quality of the sample.

After the olive harvest Greek trading vessels carried the olive oil to ports throughout the Mediterranean Sea. While transported, the oil was packed in tall jars called "ompharæ."

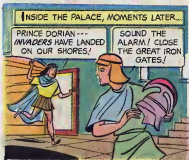
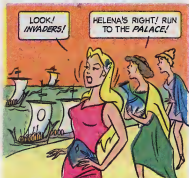
In trade for their oil the Greeks received metal, textiles, rare woods and grain.

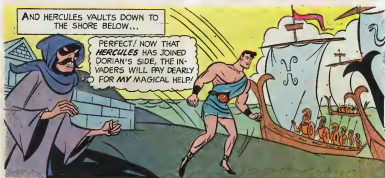
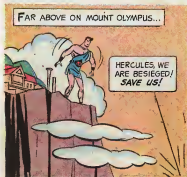
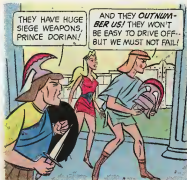
The Greek hero, Alexander the Great, conquered empires from Egypt to India, gathering the wealth of nations as he marched. But nowhere in his conquests did Alexander find a treasure equal to the flowing gold of Greece—the oil of the olive!

The Mighty Hercules

The DANGEROUS SIGHTS

TO THE SHORES OF CALYDON COMES A FIERCE INVASION FLEET...







WHAT WILL YOU DO? SHRINK HIM TO A DWARF SIZE? TURN HIM INTO A CROW?

NO! I WILL MAKE HERCULES--THIRSTY!



STRANGE-- ALL OF A SUD-
DEN THIS TRIFLING LABOR
HAS GIVEN ME A BURNING
THIRST!



AH! I AM IN LUCK!
I CAN DRINK MY FILL
THERE AND THEN
SHOVE OFF THE REST
OF THE INVADERS'
SHIPS!



SUFFERING PSYCHE! DON'T
DRINK, HERC! THAT'S THE
WATERS OF ILLUSION!



STOP! DAEDALLUS MUST
HAVE MADE YOU DRINK
THERE! NOW, WHATEVER
YOU SEE WILL BE MAG-
NIFIED INTO A FEAR-
FUL SIGHT!



AND AS HERCULES LOOKS UP FROM THE WATERS OF ILLUSION, HE SEES A STARTLING SIGHT...



NO SIX-ARMED CREATURE IS ATTACKING ME--

--HEY! CUT IT OUT, HERC! I-IT'S ME--NEWTON!



IF I CAN JUST SLIP OUT OF HIS GRIP---THERE!

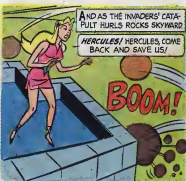


I'M SAFE, BUT HOW CAN I BREAK THE WATER OF ILLUSION'S SPELL SO HERC CAN HELP PRINCE DORIAN?



AND AS THE INVADERS' CATAPULT HURLS ROCKS SKYWARD

HERCULES! HERCULES, COME BACK AND SAVE US!



BOOM!

BUT WHEN HERCULES TURNS TO LOOK AT HELENA, THE WATERS OF ILLUSION MAKE HIM SEE A FRIGHTFUL FIGURE...



HERCULES! WHY ARE YOU TURNING AWAY? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? COME BACK!



SEE! HERCULES TURNS HIS BACK ON THEM!

I'LL CHASE HIM AND MAKE SURE HE **DOESN'T** COME BACK TO BOTHER US!



AT THE SOUND OF THE APPROACHING CHARIOT, HERCULES LOOKS OVER HIS SHOULDER AT A TERRIFYING ILLUSION...



IF I CAN GET UP HERE, I'LL BE SAFE FROM THE FIRE-BREATHING MONSTER!



FORGET *HERCULES*! WE ARE ABOUT
TO BREACH THE WALLS!



YOU'RE RIGHT, DAE DALUS!
LET THE CATAPULT AND
BATTERING RAM DO
THEIR WORK!



MEANWHILE...



WHEN HERCULES SEES THE WIERDLY DIS-
TORTED ILLUSION OF TEWT...



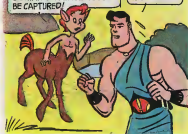
GREAT ZEUS! MY
PLAN'S WORKING!
HERE COMES HERC!





DAEDALUS TRICKED YOU INTO DRINKING THE WATERS OF ILLUSION SO PRINCE DORIAN'S PALACE COULD BE CAPTURED!

WE'LL END THAT THREAT RIGHT NOW!



MOMENTS LATER...

DAEDALUS, LOOK!

KEEP YOUR SIEGE WEAPONS WORKING AND LEAVE HERCULES TO ME!

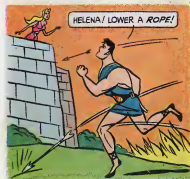


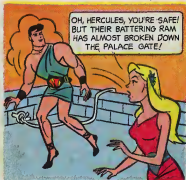
EVEN THE MIGHTY HERCULES CAN'T WALK THROUGH A WALL OF FLAME!



IF I CAN'T REACH THE CATAPULT, MAYBE I CAN USE THAT FLAME TO DO THE JOB FOR ME!







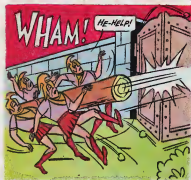
AND AS THE RAM
SLAMS INTO THE
BUCKLING GATES,
SUDDENLY...

ROOOMP!



WHAM!

HE-HELP!

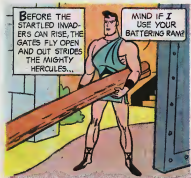


YEOW!



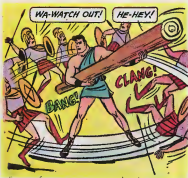
BEFORE THE
STARTLED INVAD-
ERS CAN RISE, THE
GATES FLY OPEN
AND OUT STRIDES
THE MIGHTY
HERCULES...

MIND IF I
USE YOUR
BATTERING RAM?



WA-WATCH OUT!

HE-HEY!



CLANG!

BANG!



YEOW!



BACK TO THE SHIPS! AND CARRY THAT WIZARD WITH US! WE'LL FIX HIM LATER FOR FAILING TO STOP HERCULES!



MOMENTS LATER...

LET THEM SAIL OFF, PRINCE DORIAN! I DON'T THINK THAT THEY WILL CAUSE YOU TROUBLE AGAIN!



NOR DO I! BUT FOR A WHILE, I MUST ADMIT THAT THE INVADERS HAD ME WORRIED!

WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE WORRIED, ONCE WE WERE HELPED BY HERCULES?



OLYMPIA!



KEYS OF KNOWLEDGE

PHYSICAL FITNESS

NUMBER 2

Activities to Develop ARMS, SHOULDERS CHEST, MUSCLES



Pull-ups: Each pull-up places the chin over the bar—with the body hanging still and straight—in a single, smooth movement.



Girls, who are less muscular, can build strength with this modified pull-up. So, too, can boys with below-average development.



Wing stretcher: Keep the elbows at shoulder height; thrust them back to the limit; bring them forward, repeat until refreshed.



Sawing wood: Grasp your partner's hands, interlacing fingers; plant your feet firmly, for this is going to be a vigorous exercise.



Now—saw wood! Pump arms alternately, with plenty of vim and vigor; do it faster and faster, but don't upset your partner.

THE MIGHTY HERCULES

PIN-UP NO. 1

